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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive session of 2006

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive sessions of 2006. The expenditure requirements arising as a result of those resolutions and decisions are estimated at $257,500, all of which could be absorbed within the resources provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 will be considered in the context of the estimates for the proposed programme budget of that biennium.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive session of 2006.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, for which no provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007[1] and which would have an impact on the estimates of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions. The additional requirements entailed by the Council's resolutions and decisions are described below.

3. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 (A/54/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2006 to be financed from the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in addition to those of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, are indicated in the annex to the present report.

II. Additional requirements entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council

A. Resolution 2006/10: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

4. Under the terms of its resolution 2006/10, the Council:

(a) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2007, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Interim Cooperation Framework and the forthcoming poverty reduction strategy, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

[1] The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 is contained in documents A/60/6 (Introduction), A/60/6 (Sects. 1-35) and corrigenda, A/60/6 (Income sects. 1-3), A/60/6 (Sect. 13)/Add.1 and A/60/6 (Sect. 19)/Corr.1.

(b) Expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, and requested him to continue to support the Group's activities adequately;

(c) Requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Development Bank and other major stakeholders;

(d) Requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council at its substantive session of 2007;

(e) Decided that the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would be reviewed at the substantive session of 2007, with a view to considering whether to continue its mandate, based on the Council's consideration of the report of the Group and the situation then prevailing in Haiti, with due account being taken of the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission.

5. It will be recalled that in its resolution 2005/46 adopted at its substantive session of 2005, the Council sought similar support. At that time, it was determined that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for four members of the Group and one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to undertake a mission to Haiti in April 2006. The resource requirements to undertake the consultation mission were estimated at $13,500 and provided for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses ($11,500 for four members of the Group and $2,000 for one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), the funds for which had not been provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. In its report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its resumed organizational and first substantive sessions of 2005 (A/60/7/Add.5), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in considering the request of the Secretary-General for an additional appropriation to meet that and other funding requirements arising from decisions and resolutions of the Council, concluded that "in view of the relatively minor amount involved, the Committee is of the opinion that an additional appropriation may not be necessary. It therefore recommends that such amount, if any, as may be required be reported in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007".

6. In light of the fact that the mission foreseen in resolution 2005/46 has not yet been undertaken and given the opinion of the Advisory Committee, it is concluded that no additional appropriation is required as a result of adoption of the resolution by the Council.

B. Resolution 2006/46: Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

7. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 2006/46, the Council decided that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should be strengthened in its substantive capacity and enhanced through effective and meaningful participation of Member States in its work. It also decided that the Commission should be enlarged by 10 new members.

8. The adoption of resolution 2006/46, in which the Council proposed the enlargement of the Commission by 10 new members, gives rise to related requirements for air transportation, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, estimated at $4,200 annually for each new member. Thus, implementation of the proposal for 2007 would require additional funds in the amount of $42,000 under section 12 of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 12)).

9. Provisions have not been made under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for the estimated additional resource requirement of $42,000 resulting from the proposed enlargement of the Commission. However, it is anticipated that the additional requirement can be absorbed within existing provisions for section 12 of the programme budget. Accordingly, no request for additional appropriations arises from adoption of resolution 2006/46. The ongoing requirements to meet the terms of the resolution will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

C. Resolution 2006/49: Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

10. Under the terms of paragraphs 10, 26, 27 and 29 of its resolution 2006/49, the Council:

(a) Decided that, following its seventh session in 2007, the Forum should meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks on the basis of a focused multi-year programme of work to be adopted by the Forum at its seventh session;

(b) Requested the Forum to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and requested the secretariat of the Forum to circulate to the member States, by 31 July 2006, a compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by members during the sixth session;

(c) Decided that the Forum should, within its existing resources, convene an open-ended ad hoc expert group for up to five days to consider the content of the non-legally binding instrument to assist the Forum in its deliberations.

11. The activities referred to above would fall under subprogramme 9, Sustainable forest management of programme 7, Economic and social affairs of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007, as revised by the General Assembly (A/59/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1). Modifications to the programme narrative resulting from the requests contained in the resolution were considered by the

Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session (see A/61/125).

12. The programme and the financial impact of the proposed reduction from two meetings of the Forum per biennium to one after its seventh session in 2007 would be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

13. Pursuant to paragraphs 27 and 29 of the resolution, the secretariat of the Forum would circulate to the member States, by 31 July 2006, a compilation of the draft indicative elements and other proposals submitted by members during the sixth session; and an open-ended ad hoc expert group would be convened to consider the content of the non-legally binding instrument to assist the Forum in its deliberations (referred to in paras. 10 (b) and (c) above).

14. In order to take into account the provisions of the resolution, the programmed outputs of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 9)), would be modified and incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, subject to the approval of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The required modifications to the outputs would be as follows:

Paragraph 9.91

(a) (iii): The words "ad hoc expert group meetings on interlinkages between forests and other sectors (1)" and "furthering the common understanding of sustainable forest management at the international level (1)" would be deleted and replaced with "expert working group on the non-legally binding instrument (1)";

(b) (vi): The words "elements of a non-legally binding instrument (1) and guidelines for voluntary reporting on the non-legally binding instrument (1) would be inserted at the end of the subparagraph".

15. At the substantive session of 2006 of the Council, paragraph 29 of the resolution was orally amended as follows: the words "working group" were replaced by "expert group".

16. The oral amendment to the draft resolution, as documented in paragraph 15 above, led to the following amendments to the statement of programme budget implications on the resolution:

17. Regarding paragraph 29, as orally amended, subject to the approval of the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, the programmed outputs of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 9)), would be modified and incorporated into its programme of work as follows: the words "ad hoc expert group meetings on interlinkages between forests and other sectors (1)"; and "furthering the common understanding of sustainable forest management at the international level (1)"; would be replaced by "expert group meeting on the non-legally binding instrument (1)".

18. In accordance with the draft resolution, as orally amended, it is assumed that the expert group meeting to consider the content of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests would be convened for one week in New York at a date to be determined in consultation with the Secretariat and subject to the availability of conference facilities. The expert group meeting would be composed of experts from

the member States of the Forum. Travel support via the most economical and direct route, including daily subsistence allowance at the established United Nations rate, would be provided to one country expert from each developing country and one country expert from countries with economies in transition, to the maximum extent from the budget, supplemented by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions. It is estimated that a total of $341,400 would be required to finance participants' travel. Specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat would be required for the preparation of (a) a background study on the elements of a non-legally binding instrument and their implementation and monitoring; and (b) a paper on the best way to incorporate the regional dimension into the work of the Forum. A provision for consultancies, estimated at $70,000, would be required in this regard.

19. The additional provisions for travel of the experts could be met in part by redeploying resources of $132,000 earmarked for the holding of expert group meetings on interlinkages between forests and other sectors, and on furthering the common understanding of sustainable forest management at the international level, proposed for cancellation. Consultancy requirements of $70,000 could be also financed from the existing consultancy provision related to the two cancelled working groups. The balance of travel requirements for participants to New York ($209,400) is expected to be financed from the resources of the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554, provided that sufficient additional contributions are received to support these activities.

20. Accordingly, the draft resolution, as orally amended, would give rise to requirements that would be met from the existing appropriation under section 9, Economic and social affairs, or the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

III. Overall requirements

21. The implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive session of 2006 would give rise to total requirements of $257,500, as shown in the table below and in the annex, all of which can be absorbed.

Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007

(United States dollars)

Section 9. Economic and social affairs	215 500
Section 12. Trade and development	42 000
Total	**257 500**

IV. Recommendation

22. In summary, the implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive session of

2006 would give rise to net requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, ($215,500), and section 12, Trade and development ($42,000), totalling $257,500, which will be absorbed in the relevant sections of the appropriation for the biennium 2006-2007.

23. **Provisions made under sections 9 and 12 of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, together with extrabudgetary funds, are expected to cover the need for supplementary resources that has been identified. Consequently, no additional appropriation is sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Should the actual requirements exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.**

Annex

Summary of requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its resumed organizational session for and first substantive session of 2006

			2006-2007	2008-2009		
		Budget section	*Requirements for expenditure (to be absorbed)*	*Requests for expenditure*	*To be absorbed*	*To be considered in context of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009*
Economic and Social Council resolutions						
2006/10	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9	13 500			
2006/46	Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development	12	42 000	84 000		84 000
2006/49	Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	9	202 000			
Total			**257 500**	**84 000**		**84 000**